

302 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

At eleven the King was in his barge with twelve oars, and others of eight attended, and on the Dutch side oars were provided for eighty of the foot guards, four in a boat, and for the officers- The shooting of the bridge was hideous, and to myself I offered up many prayers to God Almighty, and with this consolation only, that if I perished it was for a righteous cause, and not forsaking my king and sovereign in his bitter afflictions.¹

That night the King slept at Gravesend. Next morning he went on to Rochester. James preferred to ride, and Ailesbury went in the King's coach. It was a melancholy journey, for the King's servants were well aware that their master's chance of retaining his throne had completely vanished, and were anxious about both his future and their own.

The King ordered me to go in his body coach, and being all alone and drowsy, I endeavoured to sleep, but was soon awakened by the King's coachman's bloody oaths; and I told him that if he continued I would go in the second coach. He begged my pardon and promised fair, but very soon after I was awakened again out of a little slumber by that man's repeated oaths, and whipping his horses, crying out ' God damn Father Petres! ' I said to him, ' Dixie, what harm hath he done you?' ' Damn him!' he replied again, ' * but for him we had not been here.' He spoke so much truth that I had not the force to chide him, only praying him to forbear his oaths.²

James stayed at Rochester from December
20 to 22.
After dinner on the twenty-second the King
sent for Ailes-
bury and said to him :

' If I do not retire, I shall certainly be sent to
the Tower,
and no king ever went out of that place but
to his grave.
It is a cruel thing for a subject to be driven out
of his native

¹ Ibid. pp. 218-9.

² Ibid, pp. 219-20.